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INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
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RHEVAKS/COMUSNAVCENT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 000026

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/18/2020
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [ENRG](#) [MARR](#) [IR](#) [BA](#)
SUBJECT: SAHRAIN'S KING HAMAD CONCERNED ABOUT QATAR, GCC
UNITY

REF: A. 09 MANAMA 647
[1B](#). 09 MANAMA 600

Classified By: Ambassador Adam Ereli for reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

- 1.(C) SUMMARY: King Hamad of Bahrain expressed concern about Qatari policy toward Iran and al Qaeda in an hour-long conversation with the Ambas
- 2.(C) King Hamad bin Issa al Khalifa summoned the Ambassador to his residence at Safriya Palace on Tuesday, January 12. In attendance, in additi
- 3.(C) The King brought up the subject of last December's GCC Summit in Kuwait. He said he had been alarmed by Qatar's positions toward Iran and
- 4.(C) On al Qaeda, King Hamad said that Amir Hamad made the point during the summit that, "I need to be in touch with them." The Qatari Amir ar
- 5.(C) King Hamad concluded that the "unity and stability" of the GCC was his priority: "I need to maintain equilibrium among GCC members and maag
- 6.(C) The Ambassador affirmed Bahrain's importance to the United States as an ally in the war on terror and a partner in regional security coop
- 7.(C) "I don't know," he replied. "I may be busier now than in the past, but I used to get more information." He said we need a system and urge
- 8.(C) Comment: King Hamad takes Bahrain's role as U.S. partner and ally seriously, as evidenced by his unstinting support for the Fifth Fleet/C
- 9.(C) King Hamad has for some time seen Qatar as a thorn in the sides of Bahrain and the GCC. Bilaterally, Qatar has continued to rebuff Bahrai
- 10.(C) Internecine squabbles among GCC members aside, the issues of Iran and energy security are existential ones for Bahrain. Each has the pot